NUMB. CXXIV.

The SPECTATOR.

Μέγα βίβλιον, μέγα κακόν.

Monday, July 23. 1711.

A Man who publiſhes his Works in a Volume, has an infinite Advantage over one who communicates his Writings to the World in looſe Tracts and ſingle Pieces. We do not expect to meet with any thing in a bulky Volume, till after ſome heavy Preamble, and several Words of Courſe, to prepare the Reader for it. This follows: Nay Authors have eſtabliſhed it as a kind of Rule, That a Man ought to be dull by Fits and Starts; as the moſt ſevere Reader makes Allowances for many Reſts and Nodding-places in a voluminous Writer. This gave Occaſion to the famous *Greek* Proverb which I have choſen for my Motto, That a great Book is a great Evil.

On the contrary, thoſe who publiſh their Thoughts in diſtinct Sheets, and as it were by Piece-meal, have none of theſe Advantages. We muſt immediately fall into our Subject and treat every Part of it in a lively Manner, or our Papers are thrown by as dull and inſipid: Our Matter muſt lie cloſe together, and either be wholly new in itſelf, or in the Turn it receives from our Expreſſions. Were the Books of our beſt Authors cut to be retailed to the Publick, and every Page ſubmitted to the Taſte of forty or fifty thouſand Readers, I am afraid we ſhould complain of many Dry Expreſſions, trivial Obſervations, beaten Topicks, and common Thoughts, which go off very well in the Lump. At the ſame Time, notwithſtanding ſome Papers may be made up of broken Hints and irregular Sketches, it is often expected that every Sheet ſhould be a kind of Treatiſe, and make out in Thought what it wants in Bulk: That the Point of Humour ſhould be worked up in all its Parts; and a Subject touched upon in its moſt refined Articles, without the Repetitions, Tautologies, and Enlargements that are indulg'd to longer Labours. The ordinary Writers of Morality prescribe to their Readers after the Galenick Way; their Medicines are made up in large Quantities. An Eſſay Writer muſt practiſe in the Chymical Method, and give the Virtue of a full Draught in a few Drops. Were all Books reduced thus to their Quinteſſence, many a bulky Author would make his Appearance in a Penny Paper: There would be ſcarce ſuch a thing in Nature as a Folio. The Works of an Age would be contained on a few Shelves; not to mention Millions of Volumes that would be utterly annihilated.

I cannot think that the Difficulty of furniſhing out ſeparate Papers of this Nature has hindered Authors from communicating their Thoughts to the World after ſuch a Manner: Though I muſt confeſs I am amazed that the Preſs ſhould be only made uſe of in this Way by News-Writers, and the Zealots of Parties; as if it were not more advantageous to Mankind to be inſtructed in Wiſdom and Virtue, than in Politicks; and to be made good Fathers, Husbands, and Sons, than Counſellours and Stateſmen. Had the Philoſophers and great Men of Antiquity, who took ſo much Pains in order to inſtruct Mankind, and leave the World wiſer and better than they found it; had they, I ſay, been poſſeſſed of the Art of Printing, there is no Queſtion but they would have made ſuch an Advantage of it, in dealing out their Lectures to the Publick. Our common Prints would be of great Uſe were they thus calculated to diffuſe good Senſe through the Bulk of a People, to clear up their Underſtandings, animate their Minds with Virtue, diſſipate the Sorrows of a heavy Heart, or unbend the Mind from its more ſevere Employments with innocent Amuſements. When Knowledge, inſtead of being bound up in Books, and kept in Libraries and Retirements, is thus obtruded upon the Publick; when it is canvaſſed in every Aſſembly, and expoſed upon every Table; I cannot forbear reflecting upon that Paſſage in the *Proverbs*, *Wiſdom cryeth*

eryeth without, she uttereth her Voice in the Streets: She eryeth in the chief Place of Concourse, in the Openings of the Gates. In the City she uttereth her Words, saying, How long, ye simple ones, will ye love Simplicity? and the Scorners delight in their Scorning? and Fools hate Knowledge?

The many Letters which come to me from Persons of the best Sense in both Sexes, (if I may guess at their Characters by their Way of Writing) do not a little encourage me in the Prosecution of this my Undertaking: Besides that, my Bookseller tells me, the Demand for these my Papers increases daily. It is at his Instance that I shall continue my rural Speculations to the End of this Month; several having made up separate Sets of them, as they have done before of those relating to Wit, to Operas, to Points of Morality, or Subjects of Humour.

I am not at all mortified, when sometimes I see my Works thrown aside by Men of no Taste nor Learning. There is a kind of Heaviness and Ignorance that hangs upon the Minds of ordinary Men, which is too thick for Knowledge to break through: Their Souls are not to be enlightned.

——— *Nox atra cavâ circumvolat umbra.*

To these I must apply the Fable of the Mole, That after having consulted many Oculists for the bettering of his Sight, was at last provided with a good Pair of Spectacles; but upon his endeavouring to make use of them, his Mother told him very prudently, "That Spectacles, though they might "help the Eye of a Man, could be of no use to a "Mole." It is not therefore for the Benefit of Moles that I publish these my daily Essays.

But besides such as are Moles through Ignorance, there are others who are Moles through Envy. As it is said in the Latin Proverb, "That one Man is "a Woolf to another;" so, generally speaking, one Author is a Mole to another Author. It is impossible for them to discover Beauties in one another's Works; they have Eyes only for Spots and Blemishes: They can indeed see the Light, as it is said of the Animals which are their Namesakes, but the Idea of it is painful to them; they immediately shut their Eyes upon it, and withdraw themselves into a wilful Obscurity. I have caught two or three of these dark-undermining Vermin, and intend to make a String of them, in order to hang them up in one of my Papers as an Example to all such voluntary Moles.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Lost on Tuesday the 12th of June last, supposed to be near Westminster-hall, a black oval Shagreen Case, in which was fixed a Gentleman's Picture drawn in black and White, having a Looking-Glass on the Back of it. Whoever brings it to Mr. John Shank at Nando's Coffee house near Temple-Bar, shall have a Guinea Reward, and no Questions ask'd. If pawned or sold their Money again with Content.

At the Request of several Persons of Quality

THE famous Water-Theatre of the late ingenious Mr. Winstanly, will continue to be shewn one Fortnight and no longer this Season: There is in it great variosities in Water-works, the like was never publickly seen. It is shewn for the Benefit of his Widow every Evening at 5 and 6 of the Clock; with several new Additions made this Season, as three new Stages, Sea Gods and Goddesses, Nymphs, Sirens and Satires, all of them playing of Water as suitable, with Fire mingling with the Water, and a Sea Triumph. The Barrel that plays so many Liquors; all which is taken away as hath perform'd its Part, and the Barrel is broken in pieces before the Spectators. Boxes 2 s. 6 d. Pit 1 s. 6 d. first Gallery 1 s. Upper Gallery 6 d. It is at the lower End of Pickadilly, and is known by the Wind-mill on the Top of it.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Wednesday next, the 25th Instant, at Lloyd's Coffee-house in Lombard-street, [illegible] in the most convenient manner for Sale, in 1 Cask in a Lot) viz. 66 Hhds and 15 Tierces of excellent French (Prize) Claret of the best Growth, deep, bright, fine, of the right Flavour; and 12 Pieces of excellent French (Prize) Brandy, also of the true Flavour: Neat and entire Parcels, just landed, now in a Vault in Witchelor's Yard between Harp-Lane and Water-lane (near the Custom-house) in Thames-street. To be Tasted this Day and to Morrow, from 6 to 1, and from 2 to 7; and on Wednesday the 25th from 6 to the Hour of Sale, viz. 9 in the Forenoon (as above): And the Lots being many, the Buyers are earnestly desired to appear punctually at the Hour appointed, determined to compleat this Sale before 1 a Clock, because there will be other Sales in the said Coffee house in the Afternoon of that Day. To be Sold by Tho. Tomkins Broker in Seething-lane in Tower street.

This is to give Notice, That the Quarterly Contribution for the Benefit of faithful Servants, being continued at the Office in Ironmonger-lane in the Method originally proposed. The Payments thereof are to be made at the Times appointed, under the Forfeitures in the Proposals mentioned. Which Method has hitherto had very good Effects, for the Benefits arising thereby not only to be received without a dutiful Behaviour in the Servants, and a good Character from their Masters, has frequently occasioned a further Observance of the Servant's Duty, and incited them to a more ready Endeavour to deserve that Character on which they have such Dependance. N. B. One whole Year's faithful Service in one Place, gives Title to a Claim.

There is to be Sold at very low Rates at Everell's, Watch-maker, at the Unicorn and Dyal up one Pair of Stairs near Strand-Bridge, all sorts of Muslin Cravats and Handkerchiefs and Cambricks for Handkerchiefs, being the Goods of Persons that fail'd. The Cravats are put up 6 in a Paper, and the Price mark'd upon each Parcel.

Just Publish'd,

The Effigies of the famous BEN. JOHNSON, who liv'd in the Time of Queen Elizabeth, was Poet Laureat to King James and King Charles I. Done from the original Picture in the Collection of the honourable John Lord Sommers, painted by Gerard Homhorst. Engraved on a Copper Plate, and Sold by George Virtue and Mr. Smith, at the Lion and Crown in Russel-street, Covent Garden. Price 1 s.

This Day is publish'd,

The History of the Reign of Queen ANNE, Year the Ninth. Containing an exact and impartial Account of Affairs Civil and Military, both at Home and Abroad, during the Year 1710: Particularly the Negotiations towards a Peace at Gertruydenberg, the Campaign in the Netherlands and Spain, the Reasons for and against the late Changes in the Ministry, and calling a new Parliament, with a full Account of the Proceedings of that Winter. Printed for Tho. Ward in the Inner-Temple Lane. N. B. The Gentlemen that intend to have compleat Collections of this Nature are desir'd to give Notice to the Printer of this Volume, there being but a very few entire Sets left.

The famous Bavarian Red Liquor:

Which gives such a delightful blushing Colour to the Cheeks of those that are White or Pale, that it is not to be distinguished from a natural fine Complexion, nor perceived to be artificial by the nearest Friend. Is nothing of Paint, or in the least hurtful, but good in many Cases to be taken inwardly. It renders the Face delightfully handsome and beautiful; is not subject to be rubb'd off like Paint, therefore cannot be discovered by the nearest Friend. It is certainly the best Beautifier in the World. Is sold only at Mr. Pool's Toyshop, at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard in Cheapside, at 3 s. 6 d. a Bottle, with Directions.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in: as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings*, the *Strand*.